



# **Update on Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project - Operational Testing**

**Governing Board Meeting  
March 10, 2011**

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Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects*



## Flow Path for 30-Day Pilot Study



**Proposed Flow  
Path = 27 miles**



Discharge to L- 8 Canal



## Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project - Operational Testing



- The interagency technical team expanded the two-week pilot test to **30 non-consecutive days** to allow SFWMD more flexibility in the event of a pump failure or a significant rainfall event
- The City of West Palm Beach voluntarily reduced its pumping to 12 hours/day (off-peak hours) at its Control 2 pump station. This change eliminated the need for additional temporary pumps
- Because the L-8 Reservoir represents an alternative source of water, the City can pump additional water as long as it comes from the L-8 Reservoir



## Operational Testing (Cont.)



- **Feb. 25, 2011** – SFWMD began collecting water quality data at 11 stations in the L-8 Reservoir, L-8 and M-Canals, Grassy Waters Preserve and G-161 structure
- **Feb 28** – SFWMD received permission from FDEP to conduct the pilot test pursuant to permit conditions
- **March 1** – SFWMD **started pumping from the L-8 Reservoir**, and the City of West Palm Beach initiated 24-hour pumping at its Control 2 pump station discharging water eastward into the M-Canal and Grassy Waters Preserve

## Operational Testing (Cont.)



- **March 2** - City of West Palm Beach completed installation of temporary earthen plugs in M-Canal to maintain channeled flow through Grassy Waters Preserve
- **March 3 - Present**
  - The L-8 Reservoir and City's Control 2 pump station continue to pump; SFWMD water quality monitoring continues
  - The G-161 structure has been gradually opened delivering 20-30 cfs of surface water flow northward to G-92 and Lainhart Dam. These initial flows represent water previously stored in the NE quadrant of Grassy Waters Preserve

**Acreage**

**Citrus Groves**

**M-Canal (14 miles)**





## Operational Testing (Cont.)



- Significant losses in flow between the Control 2 Pump station and Grassy Waters Preserve have been observed within the M-Canal, presumably due to seepage
- Significant difference in flows delivered over G-92 (~40 cfs) versus those recorded 2 miles downstream at Lainhart Dam; (~20 cfs) have been recorded during the test
  - Field investigations show that all South Indian River Water Control District gates have been closed. Staff is researching the cause for these water losses
- SFWMD has received excellent cooperation from the City of West Palm Beach and Seminole Improvement District in helping move the pilot test forward



A photograph of a dam with water flowing over it, surrounded by trees and a wooden structure. The water is white and foamy as it cascades over the dam. In the background, there are large trees and a wooden structure that looks like a walkway or a viewing platform. The overall scene is lush and green.

**Photo taken at Lainhart Dam,  
Saturday, March 5, 2011 (27 cfs)**

**Questions?**